



News Release

For immediate release: February 13, 2009

(09-024)

Contacts: Carolyn Cox, Office of Drinking Water 360-236-3162
Gordon MacCracken, Communications Office 360-236-4076

Yakima Valley residents invited to discuss well water health concerns

OLYMPIA — Lower Yakima Valley residents whose drinking water comes from private wells are invited to an open house meeting next week in Granger. Experts from the State Departments of Health and Ecology will share information and chat with residents about health concerns they may have about their water.

The meeting will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, February 19, at Radio KDNA, 121 Sunnyside Ave., Granger.

The open house follows a meeting of federal and state agencies and area residents last December organized by the federal Environmental Protection Agency. These agencies are working together to develop short-term and long-term strategies to manage pollution in shallow groundwater sources in the Yakima Valley.

“It was clear from the December meeting that people have a lot of questions about the safety of their well water,” said Wayne Clifford, director of the Department of Health Office of Environmental Health Assessments. “We want to give them the information they need to make good choices about protecting their families’ health.”

Informational materials will be available. Some of the materials are available in Spanish, and Spanish-speaking staff will be on-hand to help interpret.

Residents who have questions about the meeting can call toll free, 1-877-485-7316, ext. 3243.

###

Visit the Washington Department of Health Web site at http://www.doh.wa.gov for a healthy dose of information.
--